Deemed university status to CSIR

1355. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CSIR has submitted a proposal to UGC for giving it a deemed university status;

(b) if so, how this move is in the interest of the above institutions since, if deemed university status is given, it will 1 be the only university in the country which does not have any programme and whether it will open a pandora's box for other similar research laboratories claiming for deemed university status citing example of CSIR;

(c) if so, whether any decision has been taken by UGC with regard to giving deemed university status to CSIR; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A proposal from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for granting the status of deemed to be university was received in the year 2002. The proposal has been referred to the University Grants Commission (UGC), in terms of the provisions of the UGC Act, 1956 and, the Central Government can take any decision in this regard only on the basis of the Commission's recommendations. The UGC has not given any recommendation in respect of the CSIR.

Report on Illiterates

1356. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report, 2006, there are 771 million illiterates in 15 plus age-group in the world, out of which 34.6 per cent are in India alone;

(b) whether as per Census 2001, there are 260 million illiterates in the country in 15 plus age-group;

(c) the total number of adult illiterates and total adult literacy rate, at present for the country, State-wise; and

(d) whether the goal of the NLM to attain a sustainable threshold literacy rate of 75 per cent by 2007 is likely to be achieved?